(e) to (h) There has been demand from several quarters for writing off the agriculture loans.

The Government of India has approved a rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra involving total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore which, *inter alia*, includes Rs. 2718.25 crore for waiver of interest on overdue agricultural loans. The State-wise details of interest waiver are as under:

(*Rs. in crore*)

| Sl.No. | State | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1436.44 |
| 2. | Karnataka | 209.81 |
| 3. | Kerala | 3760.00 |
| 4. | Maharashtra | 712.00 |
| | TOTAL: | 2718.25 |

**Subsidies for wheat output**

254. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether forced to import wheat for the first time in 6 years, Government have unveiled plan to boost wheat output by about 7 million tonnes in the coming season through a plan *i.e.* entirely subsidy-driven costing Government Rs. 2482 croes over three years in 138 identified districts;

(b) if so, whether this money would be used for seed replacement, demonstration of improved technology, micro-nutrients and use of advanced sowing technique;

(c) if so, to what extent these methods have been introduced; and

(d) to what extent it has been helpful in achieving the higher production of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has drawn a special three years plan for increasing the production and productivity of wheat in 138 identified districts. Under the plan, provision has been made to provide assistance for seed distribution, demonstration, micro-nutrients, improved farm implements and subsidy for diesel.

(c) and (d) 48,000 quintal of quality seeds of improved variety of wheat has been allocated to different wheat producing States to conduct field demonstrations, out of which 43,750 quintal seed has been supplied to the targeted States. It is too early to assess the impact of this initiative as the sowing of the crop has just started.

**NCF Recommendations**

†255. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has submitted its final report to the Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has even recommended necessary constitutional amendments in the interest of agriculture and the farmers;

(c) whether the Swaminathan Commission has highlighted the continuously declining trend of capital investment in agricultural sector since Sixth Five Year Plan as one of the salient reasons for decline in agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in the light of above points and the effective steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission has recommended the inclusion of agriculture in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi